



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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EARL RAY TOMBLIN
GOVERNOR

April 1, 2014

The Honorable Natalie Tennant
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Building 1, Suite 157-K
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0770

Re: Enrolled Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 477

Dear Secretary of State Tennant:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return the Enrolled Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 477.

I support the policy that teachers should be provided planning periods that are reasonably unburdened by other demands. However, the revisions made to W. Va. Code § 18A-4-14 prevent principals and teachers from working in a collaborative manner to arrange the instructional day. It is vital that West Virginia law reflect education policies that encourage mutual administrative engagement in joint planning. Research demonstrates this type of cooperation has a profoundly positive impact on effective teacher instruction and increases student achievement.

Senate Bill 477 would also impose additional costs on the already strained budgets of county boards of education. In light of the negative impact on teacher collaboration and county board of education budgets, I must disapprove and return the Enrolled Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 477.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl Ray Tomblin".

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

ERT/mb

cc: The Honorable Jeffrey Kessler ✓
President of the Senate

The Honorable Timothy R. Miley
Speaker of the House of Delegates